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The Early-Medieval Hoard of Coins and Silver Ornaments Found at “Babińskie Lasy” - in the Collection of the National Museum in Cracow

The Coin Room collection contains an early-medieval hoard of coins and silver ornaments found at a location called “Babińskie Lasy”. The date and the circumstances of the discovery remain unknown. The group of items is a gift of Edward Nepros (1919). It consists of three dirhams (2 complete and 1 incomplete, preserved in four fragments) and some ornaments: an earring with a long empty bead, two earrings with grape-shaped pendants, an oval-shaped bead, and a lunula.

All the dirhams were issued under the Samanid dynasty. One of them was struck during the reign of Ismā‘īl ibn Aḥmad at aš-Šāš, in 291 (903/904), the other two are dirhams of Naṣr ibn Aḥmad, struck at Ma‘din, in the years “313” (925/926) and “316” (928/929). The dating of the oval-shaped bead represents the broadest time-frame. Such items are quite common for the period from the 10th to the 13th century. The other ornaments correspond with the hoards dating from the second half of the 10th to the early 11th century, from the Eastern Slavic territory. The above-mentioned dating cannot be disproved by the chronology of the latest dirham, whose date of issue, “316” (928/929) determines the *terminus post quem* of the group in question. Among E. Nepros’ objects donated in 1919, the large lunula is marked by the dates representing the shortest time-frame (between the early third quarter and the early fourth quarter of the 10th century), while the dates of the other items in the hoard do not contradict the lunula dates at all.